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One of the most conspicuous things about the agriculture of the United States is the widespread fact that the industry is not adjusted to the resources of the locality in which it is prosecuted. Here is a contrast pointed out by Professor King.

"To anyone who studies the agricultural methods of the Far East in the field it is evident that these people, centuries ago, came to appreciate the value of water in crop production as no other nations have. They have adapted conditions to crops and crops to conditions until with rice they have a cereal which permits the most intense fertilization and at the same time the ensuring of maximum yields against both drought and flood. With the practice of western nations in all humid climates, no matter how completely and highly we fertilize, in more years than not yields are reduced by a deficiency or an excess of water.

"It is difficult to convey, by word or map, an adequate conception of the magnitude of the systems of canalization which contribute primarily to rice culture. A conservative estimate would place the miles of canals in China at fully 200,000, and there are probably more miles of canal in China, Korea and Japan than there are miles of railroad in the United States. China alone has as many acres in rice each year as the United States has in wheat and her annual product is more than double and probably threefold our annual wheat crop, and yet the whole of the rice area produces at least one and sometimes two other crops each year."

How does the Chinaman live and make a living, and how does he conserve the fertility of the soil? These questions Professor King answers with a wealth of economic observations that make his book one that should be read by all those who wish to understand the economic side of affairs oriental.

There is much in China for us to learn. So much that Dr. King thinks that "One very appropriate and immensely helpful means for attacking this problem, and which should prove mutually helpful to citizen and state, would be for the higher educational institutions of all nations, instead of exchanging courtesies through their baseball teams, to send select bodies of their best students under competent leadership and by international agreement, both east and west, organizing therefrom investigating bodies each containing components of the eastern and western civilization and whose purpose it should be to study specifically set problems. Such a movement well conceived and directed, manned by the most capable young men, should create an international acquaintance and spread broadcast a body of important knowledge which would develop as the young men mature and contribute immensely toward world peace and world progress."

J. RUSSELL SMITH.

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Lavisse, Ernest. *Histoire de France depuis les Origines jusqu'à la Révolution.* Tome Neuvième I. La Règne de Louis XVI par H. Carré. Pp. 441. Paris: Hachette et Cie.

This volume of M. Lavisse's well-known history of France is the work of three historians, but by far the largest part of the book is by M. Carré.

He contributes the divisions on Louis XVI and his efforts for reform, on his foreign policy, on the social life of the reign, and the three chapters on what he calls the "Agony of the Ancient Régime." M. Sagnac writes only the chapter on the "Eve of the States General, December, 1788, to May, 1789," while M. Lavissee supplies the chapters dealing with the "Conclusions sur les Règnes de Louis XV et de Louis XVI."

As a rule, the division of labor in this work has not resulted in quite so conspicuous a lack of harmony as in this instance. The remarkable degree of unity in the other volumes in spite of the fact that they are frequently the product of co-operation has been a matter of favorable comment. In this instance, however, one cannot refrain from expressing the wish that M. Carré, whose treatment of the economic aspects of the Old Régime is so excellent, had also been asked to do the concluding chapters. The probabilities are that the more deep-seated social and economic evils of the Ancient Régime would have received recognition as causes of the revolutionary development somewhat more in accord with their real significance. Too much attention is given to the purely personal by M. Lavissee. The evils from which France was suffering, were according to him, due mainly to the inefficiency of the King. "La cause principale de la ruine de la royauté, ce fut le manque du roi," and from this came "l'inachèvement du royaume," and "la diminution de la puissance française." "La Crise" so clearly and tellingly treated in the last chapter is brought on by the King himself. Had Louis XIV and his successors played their part well instead of badly, there would still be a throne in France.

Whether this be so or not does not concern us here, but what is of importance is that in the conclusion of the volume we see altogether too little evidence of the play of factors which the earlier parts of the book prepared us to expect. Economic and social conditions, not to speak of the great intellectual movements of the Ancient Régime, dominate the course of events as M. Carré presents it, and should dominate them in the summing up also, quite regardless of the fact that the King and his court chose to live their artificial life at Versailles separated from the real life of the nation.

But this is only a general objection to a volume which is unusually meritorious and a fitting conclusion to the great work as a whole.

At the time of this writing the index volume has appeared and we now have a history of France which in point of scholarship as well as attractiveness in literary style belongs among the foremost works of its kind in any country. Indeed it would be a real contribution to the pleasure and profit of the large body of English readers to publish a translation at an early date. Similarly it is to be hoped that M. Lavissee and his collaborators will carry the work on through the Revolution and the Nineteenth Century. In M. Aulard's "Histoire Politique de la Révolution Française," we have the political development of the earlier period adequately treated by a great scholar, but the social and economic phases of the Revolution are not dealt with in this volume. For the history of the last century in France, no treatment of the breadth and scholarship of the work before us exists.

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